

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon the foregoing amendment, claims 5, 7-24, 27, 28, and 31-41 are currently pending, with claims 7, 8-10, 21, 31 and 33 being the independent claims. Claims 1-4, 6, 25, 26, 29, 30 and 42-49 are canceled.

Based on the foregoing amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 21-24 are allowed and that claims 7-12, 16, 27, 28 and 31-38 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 21-24 have not been changed by the foregoing amendment.

Claims 7, 8-10, 31 and 33 have been rewritten in independent form, including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that those claims are now allowable.

Claims 5 and 13-20 depend from and include all of the features of claim 8 and, therefore, are also allowable.

Claims 11 and 12 depend from and include all of the features of claim 10 and, therefore, are also allowable.

Claims 32 and 39-41 depend from and include all of the features of claim 31 and, therefore, are also allowable.

Claims 34-38 depend from and include all of the features of claim 33 and, therefore, are also allowable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 13-15, 20, 25-26, 29, 30 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,371,428 to Kikuchi et al. ("Kikuchi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,520,238 to Ikeda ("Ikeda"). Claims 1-4, 6, 25, 26, 29 and 30 are canceled. As described above, claims 5, 13-15, 20 and 41 depend from allowable independent claims and, therefore, are allowable.

The Examiner has rejected claims 17-19, 39 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi in view of Ikeda and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,153,363 to Fishman et al. As described above, claims 17-19, 39 and 40 depend from allowable independent claims and, therefore, are allowable.

Conclusion

It is believed this amendment now has placed the application in condition for reconsideration and allowance. If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this and concurrent replies to charge payment (or credit any overpayment) to Deposit Account No. 50-0683 in the name of Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps.

Respectfully submitted,



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